

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present application is a divisional of co-pending parent U.S. Application Serial No. 09/956,876. In that parent application, Claims 9-18 were withdrawn and cancelled as directed to a non-elected invention. The present divisional application is submitted to further prosecute those withdrawn and cancelled Claims 9-18 from the parent of the present application.

By the present preliminary amendment, the specification is also amended as in the parent of the present application to correct minor informalities therein.

Further, Claims 1-8 and 19-24 are cancelled, so that Claims 9-18 are pending. Claims 9-18 are also amended to make a minor clarification.

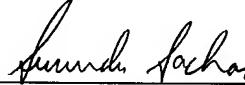
The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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